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*Bulletin  
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*February 1964 • Vol. XVII • No. 6*



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

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Volume XVII

February, 1964

Number 6

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

NR Adam, Barbara. Who's Jenny? story and pictures by Barbara Adam. Double-day, 1963. 32p. \$2.95.  
yrs.

A read-aloud book about the conversations of an imaginative child. To every greeting, Jenny responds, "I'm not Jenny. I'm a . . . ghost . . . clown . . . bird . . . egg-beater . . . pot roast," etc. Jenny finally meets another child; he talks her language, and when she finally states that she is Jenny, he pronounces her a yellow jelly bean, then a "lollapalooza" and Jenny agrees. "And they laughed and laughed and laughed all the way to the bottom of the hill." the story concludes. Childish humor, but probably not as humorous to the child as it is in real life when he is participating in or originating the play. The illustrations are pedestrian, with human faces and figures often out of proportion.

Ad Allan, Mabel Esther. New York for Nicola. Vanguard, 1963. 192p. \$3.50.  
7-9

Deviating slightly from the pattern of previous heroines-away-from-home, a book in which an English girl comes to New York City reluctantly, and immediately falls in love with the town as well as with Gray, a young man who lives there. Nicola is a young pianist whose recent illness has made her feel dubious about pursuit of her career and about the fact that a concert pianist must travel. She gets over her doubts and her depression by helping a young actress who has had some of the same emotional problems; she achieves additional security when she finds her love for Gray is reciprocated. The author writes well, the characters are interesting, the plot is adequate; the weakness of the book is in the emphasis on New York sights and scenes, an emphasis that, in some chapters, has almost the quality of a travel brochure.

R American Heritage Magazine. Clipper Ships and Captains; by the editors of  
7-10 American Heritage Magazine; narr. by Jane D. Lyon in consultation with  
Carl C. Cutler. American Heritage, 1963. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series). Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

An extensive and detailed description of the century of clipper ships. The author writes in rather florid style, with one chapter being devised as the journal of an imaginary passenger; other chapters discuss the China trade, the California run, and the packets that sailed in the Australian gold rush. General chapters describe the advent of the clipper and the death of the sailing ship. All of the text mingles statistics about individual ships and record runs with biographical material and anecdotes about marine designers, captains, and shipowners. Illustrations are varied, plentiful, and handsome; the text, printed in two columns, is of necessity a bit repetitious. A brief reading list and an index are appended.



Ad Baruch, Dorothy (Walter). Kobo and the Wishing Pictures; A Story from Japan; 4-5 illus. by Yoshie Noguchi. Tuttle, 1964. 63p. \$3.75.

A book about the Japanese customs of Wishing Day, the time at which people hang plaques painted to represent their dearest wishes. The very attractive illustrations are of scenes from the story and of the actual wishing pictures described in the story. Kobo, whose father is an artist, cannot decide on his own plaque, and tries to get ideas from the pictures that customers order from his father. He finally paints his own wishing picture. The Japanese background is interesting; the thin story line, however, seems overburdened by repeated instances of Kobo's consideration of father's customers and their wishing pictures.

NR Bell, Gina. Three Boys and a Dog; illus. by George Wilde. Abingdon, 1963. 2-3 32p. (Easy-to-Read Books). \$1.50.

Three brothers look so much alike that their mother can't tell the difference between them, and they are able to evade tasks by not admitting identity. A stray dog that the boys have picked up as a pet can, however, tell the boys apart; one of the boys is even shamed by his dog's behavior into confessing that he had broken a window. The illustrations are pedestrian, the writing style is adequate; the story line is thin, with poor presentation of ethical values in the deception (however gaily presented as teasing) of mother. It is not quite credible that the dog would recognize and differentiate among the boys while their mother could not.

M Benedict, Dorothy Potter. Bandoleer; illus. by Joseph Papin. Pantheon Books, 6-9 1963. 219p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.19 net.

A sequel to Pagan the Black and Fabulous. The book has two themes: one is Sandy's training, after neglecting the colt, of Pagan's offspring, Bandoleer, the other is Sandy's struggle with himself when he realizes he is in love with Mistie. Sandy feels that Mistie, even though she is not his real sister, has been so long an adoptive sister that their marriage would cause censure and would upset their parents. In a final episode that seems disproportionately melodramatic, Sandy, who has just returned home after finishing college and enlisting in the Army, rescues his rival (trapped in a landslide); Pagan is killed and Bandoleer shows his colors; Sandy decides that he must have courage also and proposes to Mistie. The book moves more slowly than its predecessors, and the love story and horse story seem mutually obtrusive.

Ad Berna, Paul. Flood Warning; illus. by Charles Keeping. Pantheon Books, 1963. 7-9 158p. \$3.25.

The faculty and students of a French boarding school are forced to abandon the building during a flood; most get off to a refugee camp, but seven are stranded in the top of an old mill. Although all of the characters in the book rise to the occasion, the seven who are left behind are those on whom attention is focused. In their several ways, all of them are changed (for the better) by the tension and trial of danger. The descriptions of the beginnings of the disaster, of courage and desperation while the flood is in full spate, and of the rescue operations are vivid and convincing. The book has remarkable unity and good characterization; it is uneven in treatment, however, with a very slow beginning as the author establishes characters and atmosphere, a well-paced central portion, and a rather hasty tying up of loose ends at the close.

M Bettina. Dolls. Ariel, 1963. 24p. illus. \$1.95.

K-2

A small book about dolls; not a story, the text consists simply of descriptive captions accompanying pictures of various dolls. "This little boy doll from ancient China wears pure silk embroidered in gold. He has a bird to keep him company. . . . In the window of an antique shop not far from my house I saw this baby doll. . . . If you want me to draw some more, please let me know. For there is no end to the many, many dolls to

love." Slight, but with some appeal for the confirmed doll-lover.

R Bonsall, Crosby Newell. The Case of the Hungry Stranger. Harper, 1963. 64p. 1-2 illus. (I Can Read Books). Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A pleasant story for beginning readers, with mildly engaging illustrations. Four boys playing in their clubhouse find that there has been a theft of a blueberry pie from a neighbor; Wizard leads Skinny, Tubby, and Snitch in a hunt for the culprit. After following several false trails (their own footsteps, Tubby's cookie-crumble trail) they decide to hunt for blue-stained teeth. After they have tracked down the miscreant, they are awarded a blueberry pie. The type of humor, the brevity and simplicity of the writing, and the format are all just right for the audience.

M Borchard, Ruth. The Children of the Old House; with drawings by Lili Cassel 5-6 Wronker. Doubleday, 1963. 181p. \$2.95.

A family story based on the author's childhood in Germany, when the family spend their first year in an old, dilapidated house, newly-acquired and gradually refurbished. The treatment is episodic; characterization is good, and the familial relationships are skillfully interpreted; the book is weak in the writing style, which is frequently quaint and sentimental.

Ad Brothers, Aileen. Sad Mrs. Sam Sack; by Aileen Brothers and Morton Botel; 1 illus. by Muriel and Jim Collins. Follett, 1963. 26p. (Beginning-to-Read Books). \$1.

For the beginning independent reader, a book with limited vocabulary; an appendage lists each word used in the story. The story is a simplified version of the old tale of the crowded household: advised by wise old Dad Gum to bring all the farm animals into the house, Mrs. Sack was finally happy when the house had been emptied of animals because it seemed so commodious by contrast. Not as entertaining as the original version, but retaining the humor of the idea.

Ad Brown, Myra (Berry). Birthday Boy; pictures by Robert MacLean. Watts, 1964. 2-4 54p. \$2.50.

yrs.

A mild and realistic read-aloud story about a child's fourth birthday. Joey and his guests are absolutely true-to-life, and small listeners can sympathize with Joey's expressing the hope that everybody remembers to bring a present and with his need to explain the presence of a lowly three-year-old to his friends! "She's my cousin." Static but pleasant.

NR Carleton, Barbee Oliver. Chester Jones; illus. by Cioia Fiammenghi. Holt, 5-6 1963. 174p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

An episodic fantasy in which Chester Jones, a pre-adolescent, has one marvelous adventure after another. His seeds sprout dinosaurs, a magic powder grows enormous vegetables, an old rug turns out to be a flying carpet. Both the fanciful and humorous aspects of the book seem unsuccessful, chiefly because they are laid on with a heavy hand. One character, for example, is the fantastic Captain Tubbs, with whom many of the episodes are concerned; his conversation is heavily larded with nautical terminology: "I'll be scuttled! Stand me on me beam ends and blow me down!" he says, when told that the seeds he gave Chester have produced a dozen dinosaurs.

R Clarke, Pauline. The Return of the Twelves; illus. by Bernarda Bryson. Coward-McCann, 1964. 251p. \$3.75.

An ingenious story about the set of wooden soldiers about which the four Bronte children built their imaginative and intricate kingdom, described by Branwell Bronte in History of the Young Men. Eight-year-old Max Morley discovers that the twelve sol-

diers are alive, freezing into immobility when they know themselves to be observed. He wins their sympathy and they no longer "freeze" in his presence; two themes then develop smoothly: one by one, other humans discover the truth about the twelve, and little by little it becomes clear that these are the long-lost set of Bronte soldiers. Throughout the book are long and lively scenes that exploit the past and present ploys and personalities of the twelve. Smoothly knit, humorous, and highly original, the book gives, in addition, a perceptive portrayal of Max and the other members of the family. Winner of the Carnegie Medal in 1962, the book will surely appeal to many older readers who can appreciate the author's literary skill and who can enjoy the allusive references to the Brontes.

R Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Search for a Living Fossil; The Story of the  
5-8 Coelacanth; illus. by Joan Berg. Holt, 1963. 125p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

A meticulously illustrated book that describes the discovery and identification of the coelacanth in 1938, a discovery followed by the successful search for a second specimen in 1962. The author gives good background information about evolution and about fossil remains; those parts of the book that detail the exciting years that led to the finding of a dozen other coelacanths are written in a vivid and simple style. The book closes with an assessment of the value of such discoveries; an index is appended.

NR Cole, Earl. Hooper the What-What Owl; by Earl and Natalie Cole. Duell, 1963.  
5-7 26p. illus. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.  
yrs.

A read-aloud picture book with stylized and not very attractive illustrations, about an owl that couldn't say "Whoo." To the dismay of his mother, all Hooper could say was "What"; the other animals all teased him, so he flew off to the edge of the forest to practice. Overhearing two men planning to hunt down forest fauna, Hooper called "What, what . . ." to confuse the hunters; the men quarrelled and made so much noise they were chased away by bears. Hooper was then a hero. Slight in plot, trite in handling.

Ad De Leeuw, Hendrik. From Flying Horse to Man in the Moon; A History of Flight  
8- from Its Earliest Beginnings to the Conquest of Space. St. Martin's, 1963.  
310p. illus. \$6.

A comprehensive book on manned flight and space flight; photographic illustrations are good on the whole, some few being photographed diagrams that are difficult to read or are of publicity variety that give no information. The material is well-organized, but the writing style is variable, some parts of the text being written in dignified fashion and others being sprinkled with florid phrases or generalizations. The relative index is extensive but is unfortunately in very small print.

R Devlin, Wende. Old Black Witch! by Wende and Harry Devlin; illus. by Harry  
2-4 Devlin. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1963. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

A light-hearted fanciful tale; illustrations are of variable quality and varied styles, ranging from cartoon to almost-Blegvad. The style of writing is smooth and gay, the attitude toward witches being that of a fond irreverence. When Nicky and his mother bought an old house to use for a tearoom, they were challenged by a resident witch; Old Black Witch felt that it was really her house, but she grudgingly accepted an attic room. Prevailed upon to help below, the witch found that she enjoyed the success of her blueberry pancakes; she even identified enough with the project to turn into toads two men who were robbing the sugarbowl. After that she helped often in the tearoom, although "she demanded days off in which to be nasty, but then, most witches would."



M Dillon, Eilfs. The Cats' Opera; illus. by Kveta Vanecek. Bobbs-Merrill, 1963. 4-5 63p. \$2.75.

An oversize book that looks, unfortunately, like a small child's picture book. Also unfortunately, the writing style—smooth, humorous, light—has latent content too sophisticated for a younger, read-aloud audience, while the format and the subject are juvenile for the middle grades reader who can appreciate the operatic setting. A cat belonging to a theatre manager organizes rehearsals, and conducts a performance on the one night in the year that animals can talk. Each year an increasing number of people are permitted to attend, but the audience consists chiefly of cats.

NR Dobler, Lavinia. Customs and Holidays Around the World; illus. and designed 5-8 by Josephine Little. Fleet, 1963. 186p. \$4.50.

A book that goes through the seasons of the year, listing holidays and describing the variations in observance in different countries. Most of the holidays discussed are those of the major religions, although many secular holidays are also described. The book gives information, but has several weaknesses that limit its usefulness, the chief one being the apparently random nature of holidays selected. For example, neither Boxing Day nor Guy Fawkes Day is listed under England in the index, although such secular holidays as the Iris Fete and Children's Day are listed under Japan. The entries for the United States include Pinkster Day in Albany but not Flag Day. The writing style is superficial, often awkward: "The children especially like the calypso, in which they move their feet slowly while their shoulders and hips jut out in all directions." or, in a chapter on Easter observances, "It is called the 'Paschal' candle, because it is used during the Paschal season, the forty days following Easter. The word 'Paschal' comes from the Jewish word for Passover. It is interesting that some form of this word is used to mean the Easter season in every language except English and German." Another dubious aspect of the style is the occasional note of florid writing: "Their eyes are bright and filled with hope, for the Son of God has risen, and there is promise of a new and better life." A bibliography and an index are appended.

Ad Domjan, Joseph. Hungarian Heroes and Legends. Van Nostrand, 1963. 120p. 7-10 illus. Trade ed. \$4.75; Library ed. \$4.53 net.

Revised and expanded by the author from the original publication, an oversize book profusely illustrated with woodcuts in black and white. The text is organized into brief topics grouped in large areas: historical material (largely consisting of brief biographies of important historical figures), Hungarians in America, folk art, and the contemporary scene. Since the book has no index, short topics, much illustration that is merely decorative, and a table of contents in confusing form, it will have limited use. Reference, no; browsing, yes. Even as browsing material the book is hampered by the random arrangement of topics. The illustrations are extremely handsome, however, and the volume cannot but have some usefulness because there is little material about Hungary.

M Duncan, Jane. Camerons on the Train; illus. by Victor Ambrus. Macmillan, 5-6 1963. 127p. \$3.25.

The three Cameron children, who are six, ten, and thirteen, become involved in mystery and adventure when they encounter some of the members of a gang of thieves while they are traveling by train. The plot verges on improbability not so much for the usual prowess of the children as for their precocity. The story is told by Shona, the oldest child, in a lively style, but there is in the writing a self-consciousness about the fact the protagonists are children that lends a faint air of patronage. The setting is good, and the action has pace, but the story does not compare with the author's books for adults.

NR Dunham, Geoff. Mudlark. Walck, 1963. 33p. illus. \$3.25.

K-2

Mudlark, the mule that pulled a cart at the zoo, was fired; he tried imitating other animals so that he would be kept in the zoo, but it didn't work. Painted zebra stripes came off when it rained, and the striped sweater he'd asked for didn't fool anybody. When he stole a clown's striped suit, Mudlark also executed a backwards somersault; he was promptly invited to join the circus, which he did. A weak and contrived story that strains for humorous effect; the illustrations are of variable quality, with several drawings that are quite attractive and several that are quite distracting.

Ad Floethe, Louise Lee. Sea of Grass; pictures by Richard Floethe. Scribner, 3-4 1963. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

A story set in the Florida Everglades; the story line is slim: a Seminole boy slips out of the sleeping camp early one morning to catch bass for his grandmother. Billy's excursion is the device used to afford descriptions of the flora and fauna of the Everglades. The text gives information about Seminoles (although the tribe is not named) and about an exotic area, but it is a bit dull and slow.

R Fox, Charles Philip. Birds Will Come to You; photographs by the author. 4-7 Reilly and Lee, 1963. 86p. \$3.50.

With clear diagrams and attractive photographs, a book that gives clear, simple instructions on ways to house and feed birds of varying habits. The text is matter-of-fact, but the author's attitudes of enjoyment of birds and his feeling of responsibility toward them are clearly communicated. The houses, feeding trays, and other devices are all easy to make and are of inexpensive materials; the author suggests many favorite foods for winter feeding, plantings that will attract birds, and devices that will encourage nesting.

M Gibson, Enid. The Golden Cockerel; Three Stories of Magic and Witchcraft from 6-7 Russian Opera; illus. by Prudence Theobalds. Walck, 1963. 53p. \$2.75.

The stories of three Russian operas: "The Golden Cockerel," "Ruslan and Ludmilla," and "The Love for Three Oranges." Each story is followed by two pages of notes about the opera. The writing style is turgid and often awkward, the close print is quite difficult to read; were the tales more simply told or were the notes about the operas more extensive, the book would be more useful. There is some value in having the librettos of three operas available, but most readers who could understand the text could use adult material, and the music lover would probably prefer a reference source.

NR Guillot, René. The Fantastic Brother; tr. from the French by Christopher 7-9 Hampton; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Rand McNally, 1963. 192p. \$3.95.

A book with an elaborate plot, written in ornate and romantic style. Lucas, fifteen, is given by his parents into the personal service of the old, crotchety Comte de Lieue. Lucas becomes the companion of the grandson of the house and he worships the grandson's twin sister. Sent on a sea voyage, Lucas finds that there is no grandson; he has been impersonated by the girl, who has been living two lives because her grandfather so wanted an heir. Lucas, left by a villain to die in Africa, gets back to France after receiving homage from natives, weds the heiress, and always remembers his African people who had worshipped him, Aniokou, the White Beast. Wild plot, stereotyped derring-do-genre characters, weak writing style.

R Haig-Brown, Roderick Langmere Haig. The Whale People; illus. by Mary Weil- 5-7 er. Morrow, 1963. 256p. \$3.25.

Set in the northwest in pre-Columbian times, the story of a young chief of the Hotsath people of the Nootka Indians. In describing the training of Atlin as a boy and as the chief hunter of whales after the death of his father, the great whale chief, the author

gives a marvelously smooth and detailed picture of the Nootka culture. The writing has more mood than it has pace, an element of style that seems particularly appropriate for the story of the slow, patient, and ceremonious preparation for Atlin's full leadership of his people. Source material is cited in an appendix.

M Herrmanns, Ralph. Lee Lan Flies the Dragon Kite; tr. from the Swedish by Annabelle Macmillan. Harcourt, 1963. 43p. illus. \$3.50.

An oversize book first published in Sweden in 1961 under the title Lee Lan, Hing Och Draken. Full-color photographs illustrate the text, which is a fictionalized description of the life of a poor fisherman's family in Hong Kong. The central character is Lee Lan, who is eight; the story line is built on her desire to attend school. Lee Lan and her loving older brother work to earn money so that she can get an education as he does; at the New Year they fly the Dragon Kite for the old kitemaker for whom they have been working. Lee Lan gets her wish; her kind employer, Hao Loo, says he will pay the school fees. The text and the pictures do give information about life on a Hong Kong junk, but the story is contrived, and it often seems built around a photograph of only peripheral interest. Not all the photographs are clear and a good many are repetitive.

Ad Hine, Al. Money Round the World; illus. by John Alcorn. Harcourt, 1963. 34p. 3-4 Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.09 net.

An introduction to the topic, useful but fairly superficial in coverage; illustrations are handsome but seem of limited value as supplementation of the text. The chief contribution of the book is that it presents the concept of coins and bills as only one kind of device that facilitates exchanges of goods, pointing out that many forms of currency have been used since the days of bartering. The portion of the text that describes United States currency seems written down: "There are fifty Cents in a Half Dollar, and, naturally, two Half Dollars make one whole Dollar . . . Two Nickels make a Dime. If you have three Quarters, three Nickels, and one Dime, what do you have? A Dollar, that's what." The text describes the ways in which money is minted or printed, what happens to old money, and concludes with a listing of some of the monies of other countries and their exchange value at time of printing.

Ad Hoke, Helen, comp. Doctors Doctors Doctors; selected by Helen Hoke. Watts, 7-10 1963. 200p. (Terrific Triple Title Series). \$2.95.

A compilation of fourteen previously published short stories and excerpts from books, fictional or biographical, with two adaptations; the contents are varied in subject and style. A good, although not outstanding, collection of material about the medical profession.

NR Horgan, Paul. Toby and the Nighttime; illus. by Lawrence Beall Smith. Ariel, 3-4 1963. 71p. \$3.25.

A model of a boy and a model of a dog come alive each night and leave the window of a toy store, each adventure being related to some toy in the store window. The episodes are hung together by the comments of a flustered and fluttery employee, Mr. Herbert, who has put the boy, Toby, and the dog into the window and who finds them out of position each morning. A contrived fantasy, written down and often cute. "I used to go and stand there when I was your age . . ." "Everything in the window was tiny, or sometimes small, or even pretty big." "He looked something like—how shall I tell you? I know. Like this."

R Horizon Magazine. Exploration of Africa; by the editors of Horizon Magazine; 7- narr. by Thomas Sterling; in consultation with George H. T. Kimble. American Heritage, 1963. 153p. illus. (Horizon Caravel Books). Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Well-written, and one of the most interestingly illustrated books in the series, with many drawings made by members of exploring parties, with photographs of native art, and with well-placed maps. The organization of the text is not rigid, some of the chapters being about important explorers and some being a compilation of reports about expeditions in some region of Africa. The text is written in a matter-of-fact style that is an excellent setting for the drama, danger and color of African explorations. A short bibliography and an index are appended.

Ad Koob, Theodora. Surgeon's Apprentice. Lippincott, 1963. 192p. \$3.50.  
7-8

Set in the south, a book that describes quite convincingly the state of medical advance at the close of the nineteenth century. Greg Donlewis is apprenticed to his extraordinarily severe and critical father; only slowly does Greg overcome his squeamishness and his dependence on his father's decisions. The sub-plot of the book is well-integrated, but slow moving; it concerns the injured runaway befriended by Greg, later taken into the Donlewis household. The book is uneven in pace and is weakened by a pat ending for the minor plot.

Ad Knight, Frank. Clemency Draper; illus. by William Stobbs. St. Martin's, 1963.  
6-8 222p. \$3.25.

A book that, despite stock characters and stock storyline, has interest because it gives so real a picture of the times—the close of the eighteenth century—and because it reproduces so faithfully the writing style of the nineteenth century. Clemency Draper, thirteen, is taken from the orphanage by her hitherto-unknown benefactor and sent to live with a widow of loving heart (a pure Dickens character, as are several others in the book) who also welcomes the lost infant that Clemency has found in the stage coach en route. The baby's identity is solved by the young American who has been seeking the hand of the daughter of the local squire.

Ad Krauss, Ruth. A Bouquet of Littles; pictures by Jane Flora. Harper, 1963. 20p.  
K-2 Trade ed. \$ .50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

A small read-aloud book with small-figured, stylized illustrations that have a medieval quality. The cataloging in rhyme of small things suitable to other small things is appealing but repetitive: "A little bell best fits a little ring, A little bee best fits a little sting, As my small branch best fits my little swing. a little la la la best fits a little sing/ a little here best fits a little there/ a little fountain fits a little square/ A little water fits a little well/ a little blue best fits a little bell/ a little word best fits a little spell/ a little roar best fits a little shell. . . ." The ways in which words are used may confuse some small children, but those who enjoy word play will be happily challenged.

Ad Ladd, Elizabeth Crosgrove. Meg's Mysterious Island; illus. by Mary Stevens.  
4-6 Morrow, 1963. 218p. \$2.95.

A sequel to Meg of Heron's Neck and A Mystery for Meg. With her brother and guardian, Allen, Meg goes to spend the winter in an island cabin where they find two suspicious men appearing and re-appearing. One day Allen and Meg find money hidden under the cabin floorboards, and they become really apprehensive when one of the two unsavory characters takes advantage of Allen's accident-caused immobility simply to move in. Meg signals some fishermen for help and finds, when the sheriff arrives, that one man got away and the other had been jailed. The island atmosphere of sea and space are effectively pictured and the author writes with smooth, light ease about the small events of daily life; the plot about the two bad men and the buried money seems quite forced, however, and the dénouement, while avoiding melodrama, is anticlimactic.

M Lavolle, L. N. The Key to the Desert; tr. from the French by Hugh Shelley; 6-8 illus. by J. Daynié. Abelard-Schuman, 1963. 160p. \$3.

A story of ancient Sumer is set within the framework of discussions between two British children and an American archeologist: the American interprets the story after translating some newly discovered cylinders of clay. The Sumerian tale is brim-filled with action, a bit too much; the details of Sumerian culture are instructive, but they are also intrusive. Florid writing, and a framework that seems unnecessary; the characters are wooden and the story-line is clogged, the small value of the book being in the Mesopotamian background.

NR Layton, Aviva. The Singing Stones; pictures by Gertrude Lueck. Abelard-K-2 Schuman, 1963. 39p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A read-aloud picture book that tells a fanciful story about the origin of musical notes. In a village that no longer exists, long ago there lived a boy named David; David was the only one in the village who wanted to keep the five stones from which there came a strange wailing. None of the sages could help him find the riddle of the stones, but one day he set the stones on a five-rail fence. And that's how musical notation, instruments, and music were born. The illustrations are not attractive and the clothing of "a long time ago" is quite modern in several drawings and medieval in a few others. The concept will hardly contribute to a child's appreciation of music, and the plot development is tortuous.

R Lee, Mildred. The Rock and the Willow. Lothrop, 1963. 223p. \$3.50.  
9-11

A tremendously moving story of a young girl growing up in a poor Alabama farming community during the depression years. Every member of Enie's family is characterized with sharp clarity: her taciturn father, his work-worn, quiet wife, his rebellious older son, Enie herself—filled with ambitious dreams. The events are realistic: the death of a baby sister, Enie's increasing share of work and responsibility after her mother dies, her first love affair, her resentment toward the woman her father marries. Candid and perceptive, the starkness of the story is never stark for effect; the bleakness of the depression years and the grim burdens of Enie's life are natural and real.

M Liebers, Ruth. Hector Goes to School; by Ruth Liebers and Lillian Rothenberg; 2-3 illus. by Morgan Stinemetz. Abingdon, 1963. 29p. \$1.50.

Hector is a dog who does not behave well, so Father takes him to a training school; after a slow start, Hector learns to obey commands and gets an award as the dog that has learned the most. Poorly illustrated, and with only a small amount of information about canine training classes to make the book useful; the writing is so stilted that the book has little to offer even for reading practice. "Hector ran away. He ran under the bed. Soon he came out. Father's slipper was in his mouth. 'Stop it!' shouted Father. 'That's one of my new slippers.'"

Ad Low, Alice. Summer; with pictures by Roy McKie. Random House, 1963. 61p.  
1 (Beginner Books). \$1.95.

Brief rhymes, just a few lines long, catalog the joys of summer—and a few of its hazards. "We like to eat out under trees, But so do all the bugs and bees." The illustrations are lively, some of them a bit distracting, some gay. The two children pictured engage in an extensive repertoire of activities: waterskiing, fishing, bicycling, gardening, swimming, boating, etc. There is little to the text, but it will provide some fun and some reading practice.

Ad MacIntyre, C. F. The Pig That Ate Truffles; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Golden 4-6 Press, 1963. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

Attractively illustrated, a bland, tongue-in-cheek story about porcine private enterprise; it is regrettable that the book looks like a picture book for the very young but is quite sophisticated. Two terribly upper-class pigs were truffle-hunters, creme-de-la-creme of their society. Their only child could not find from them or from anybody else, the answer to his question: What did truffles taste like? Carried away by the magic of moonlight and his first date, the scion of the house ate truffles. In fact, he brought some home to his parents; indeed, swollen with success, the truffer-eater put up a notice to attest to the fact that he and his father were expert trufflers. Plot slight, style marvelous.

Ad McGinley, Phyllis Louise. A Girl and Her Room; pictures by Ati Forberg. 4-6 Watts, 1963. 26p. \$2.95.

Verses written with a practiced light hand describe the changes in a baby girl and her room as time passes and Betsy Belinda Joan's interests change. Most of the verse is mildly humorous, some is a bit sentimental; illustrations are woman's magazine style. Pleasant, but not outstanding.

M Marcin, Marietta. A Zoo in Her Bed; pictures by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1963. 3-5 25p. Trade ed. \$3.; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

yrs.  
A very slight read-aloud picture book with illustrations that are sentimental and, on many pages, distractingly space-filling. A small girl accumulates all her animal toys in her bed; one by one, the animals decide to sleep elsewhere and Debbie is left with only her Teddy Bear. The writing is in pedestrian rhyme: "Debbie hopped into bed, with two quick little sighs, Then she yawned two big yawns, and she closed two big eyes. 'Please be quiet,' she whispered. 'Let's not hear one peep.' Her toys didn't answer, they were all fast asleep."

NR Martin, Judith. Jumping Beans; an original story and play by Judith Martin; de- 5-7 signed and illus. by Remy Charlip. Knopf, 1963. 38p. Trade ed. \$2.50; yrs. Library ed. \$2.19 net.

Adapted from a very simple play for children, with the dialogue form maintained: the lines of the different characters are printed in different colors. A woman buys beans for her supper, puts them in a pot and leaves the kitchen; the beans jump around every time she leaves the room; she finally steals in to see what the noise is, and catches the beans jumping. . . . "Crash! Slam! Pow! Wow! Wam! Bam! Whoops!" The woman goes to the grocer to complain, and the beans start hopping south to Mexico. Slight and dull; while the plot is good for a brief and undemanding playlet for a group of small children, it is not successful as a read-aloud story.

Ad Means, Florence (Crannell). Tolliver. Houghton, 1963. 234p. \$3.25. 8-10

On graduation day, Tolly learns that Sojer had been expelled from Fisk for cheating on his final exams. Tolly, daughter of a minister, realizes that Sojer—son of a poor family in the Virginia Black Belt—has made a desperate effort to get into medical school and to keep her love, but she feels that she can never trust him again. Home for the summer, she takes a teaching position and then joins a Freedom Train; after meeting violent hostility and being jailed, Tolly goes home with new perspective. She is overjoyed when Sojer appears at Christmastime in answer to an advertisement she has placed; they agree that no matter how many years it takes, he will become a doctor and she will wait for him. The author, in presenting the varying attitudes of Negroes of disparate backgrounds, has clogged the story; despite her candor and sympathy, the book often has an overtone of the tract, and it is weakened by the sentimental ending and by the intermittent use of conversational passages to give information.



NR Memling, Carl. Seals for Sale; pictures by Peter Edwards. Abelard-Schuman, K-2 1963. 44p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A read-aloud picture book in which one idea has been over-extended. Herbert loved seals; he opened a seal store but nobody wanted a seal; the seals kept multiplying and Herbert kept moving to larger quarters and making no sales. Then he thought of starting a seal circus. Success. The style of writing is awkward, the illustrations are stylized, often distracting. Only very occasionally does either the text or an illustration have a faint humor.

Ad Miles, Betty. Feast on Sullivan Street; illus. by Kurt Werth. Knopf, 1963. 48p. 2-3 \$2.95.

A story about the annual Festa of St. Anthony held each year in New York. Everybody had some participatory role except Michael, eight years old; his father said the boy would only be in the way although Michael wanted to help at the stand. Sent out to play, Michael proved helpful to another stand salesman, and his parents realized that they had underestimated him. Michael felt pleased to have earned money, pleased to have been a part of the celebration, and pleased that his future participation was assured by his parents. A rather static story, realistic in the way that members of a family tend to keep the youngest child in the role of the baby. Although the Sullivan Street festival is not colorfully described, the book does give the picture of New York neighborhood life.

Ad Nash, Ogden. A Boy and His Room; pictures by Lawrence Beall Smith. Watts, 4-6 1963. 30p. \$2.95.

A companion volume to the McGinley title reviewed above; although the topic is handled in a different way, the two books have several similarities. Both are excellent as light verse, but a bit more appealing to an adult than to a child; both have bits of cuteness or sentimentality but much genuine humor. The illustrations are realistic and attractive. Mr. Nash describes the manifold possessions and relics and collections in his grandson's room, then remembers with nostalgia his own melange of Henty books and Buster Brown funnies and Harry Lauder records; he concludes that a boy's room will be the same anywhere, anytime.

NR Niehuis, Charges C. Beegee. Macrae, 1963. 187p. \$3.25.  
7-9

Boris Stephenkoff—Beegee—was riding a freight, having been in a knife-fight in Cedar Rapids, and was thrown off the train; when he got a job with a conservation patrol in Arizona, he met Jack, the man who had thrown him off the train. Inducted into a gang of Los Angeles delinquents, Beegee turned again to gang-life and petty crime; he repented in time, confessed all to Father O'Shea, rescued some lost men, found that his step-father had died, and was told—as his mother stepped off the train—that Jack was his long-lost father. Turgid and slangy writing, pat in plot development and superficial in characterization, and with a most contrived ending.

Ad Nourse, Alan E. The Counterfeit Man. McKay, 1963. 185p. \$3.50.  
7-10

A collection of science fiction short stories, all but one of the fourteen having been previously published. The writing is better than average science fiction, and the collection should be useful, since most of the material was originally printed in magazines. The one new tale, "Circus," is a variant on the non-human on our planet; the visitor, desperate because nobody believes that he comes from another planet, goes to a science fiction writer—a story with a poignant note and a neat ending.

R Peyton, K. M. Sea Fever; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. World, 1963. 240p. 7-9 \$3.50.

A good adventure story set in England and, to judge by the illustrations, taking place about a century ago. Matt Pullen, fifteen, is his father's hand on a fishing smack working off the coast of Essex; when his father's death leaves Matt the head of the family, the boy knows that he must somehow get a new boat to stay solvent. He takes a job on a yacht, where the owner's son becomes his friend and where he meets his arch enemy, Beckett; he outwits Beckett and earns enough money for his own smack. A tight-knit story, written with pace and suspense; characterization is adequate, period details are smoothly integrated, and the nautical flavor that permeates the book is wonderfully true and vivid.

NR Philipson, Susan Sacher. A Lion for Niccolby; illus. by Giovanni Guarcello. K-2 Pantheon Books, 1963. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

An oversize read-aloud fantasy in rhyme. A striped lion could find no place that he belonged; evicted from the jungle when he could not shed his stripes, the lion searched for a home and a position. Only when he met a boy in a dream did the lion find his place. Good rhyming style in a story with unoriginal plot and a disappointing ending; the illustrations are somewhat distracting in overfilling of space and in the use of dulled colors, but have technical proficiency and some humor.

M Polgreen, John. Thunder and Lightning; text and pictures by John and Cathy 2-4 Polgreen. Doubleday, 1963. 24p. \$1.50.

An oversize book that explains the phenomena of thunder and lightning in a simple way, explaining how rain clouds build, how electricity causes the lightning and "crowded air" the thunder, and why the flash precedes the sound. The explanations are superficial although accurate; some of the illustrations fail to clarify the text and may even confuse the reader. The text is written down; it ends, "There are hundreds and hundreds of thunderstorms all over the earth at this very minute. Is there a thunderstorm where you are?" Two pages of "Additional information about thunderstorms (for parents and teachers)" are appended.

Ad Politi, Leo. Rosa. Scribner, 1963. 31p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. K-2 \$3.12 net.

A read-aloud picture book about a small girl in Mexico, illustrated with lovely scenes of a small Mexican town and the countryside about it. Rosa, as she passed a store on her way to school, saw a doll in the window. She yearned for the doll in the long and lonely summertime, and she thought of it again when Christmas came, but there was not enough money for such a thing. On Christmas Eve, Rosa and her brother returned from the village to find a new baby sister called Angelita; Rosa decided that a baby sister was even better than a doll. The text is static but pleasant, with nice details about Mexican life; the story is weakened considerably by the pat and sentimental ending.

Ad Reed, Meredith. Our Year Began in April. Lothrop, 1963. 221p. \$3.75. 7-10

A family story of a generation ago, written in first person by Linda Sutherland, young daughter of a New Hampshire minister. The family is periodically assaulted by cast-iron Aunt Augusta's visits; Aunt Augusta cannot understand why Reverend Sutherland is not ambitious, and why her niece is content with being the wife of a poor minister. The theme of the book is, more or less, the musical career of Linda; a minor aspect is the reconciliation with long-estranged, wealthy grandfather. Occasionally sentimental or effusive, the writing style is very good most of the time: convincing both for the character of Linda and for the period.

Ad Ridle, Julia Brown. Mohawk Gamble. Harper, 1963. 209p. Trade ed. \$3.50; 7-9 Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Based on Radisson's own records, a fictionalized account of the explorer's life as a captive of the Mohawks. Taken in as a foster son, Pierre Radisson had loyal friends within the tribe but made many enemies when he attempted escape. Recaptured, tortured, tried and forgiven, the Frenchman planned long and carefully before he made a second and successful flight. The book has drama and color; the picture of the Mohawk way of life is quite convincing, but the pace of the story is slowed by repetitious incidents and, in a few instances, lengthy conversations.

Ad Robinson, William Wilcox. The Key to Los Angeles. Lippincott, 1963. 128p. 5-9 illus. (Keys to the Cities Series). \$2.95.

Not as well-organized as other books in the series, but useful for the historical material it contains. A large part of the text is devoted to the founding and development of the city; even the chapters about Los Angeles today contain much historical material. The writing style is heavy with small details; the index is of limited usefulness, since it cites some names but not others and even has an erroneous entry.

Ad Sanger, Marjory Bartlett. Mangrove Island; illus. by Russell Peterson. World, 6-8 1963. 82p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

After a fairly extensive description of mangroves (their habitat, distribution, characteristics, etcetera) the author gives a full and detailed picture of the way in which a typical island of mangrove trees begins and grows. The book is serious in tone and solidly written, with much information about the flora and fauna of the tropical regions in which mangroves flourish. A bit heavy in style, the book may be limited in appeal for the general reader, but will certainly interest the nature lover or the student of biology. The illustrations are realistic and handsome; a brief index is appended.

M Schloat, G. Warren. Naim; A Boy of Turkey. Knopf, 1963. 25p. Trade ed. 4-6 \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

A series of numbered photographs plus a few maps; the text consists of captions of varying lengths. The author describes a day in the life of a boy living in a small Turkish village, showing also some of the typical activities of other villagers. The book is written in stilted fashion, simple in style but dull; some of the photographs (and their captions) contribute little information. For example, a picture of a small girl squinting into the sun: "Some of the girls watch the women at the well with mixed feelings. They seem to know this is the life they will lead in a few more years." The book and its companion volumes do not have the amount of information, the excellence of photographic technique, or the good style of the My Village series.

R Shippen, Katherine Binney. The Heritage of Music; by Katherine B. Shippen 7- and Anca Seidlova; illus. by Otto van Eersel. Viking, 1963. 311p. \$6.

A comprehensive and well-organized text on the history of music: the emergence of polyphonic music, musical notation and musical forms, major composers, and musical instruments. The treatment is authoritative, the writing is dignified—occasionally dry, but lightened by biographical anecdotes. A very good glossary of musical terms is appended, as is an extensive index.

R Sorensen, Virginia (Eggertsen). Where Nothing Is Long Ago; Memories of a 7- Mormon Childhood. Harcourt, 1963. 213p. \$3.95.

Ten stories about events in the author's childhood, three of the tales having been published previously in magazines. The book is delightful both for the content and the writing style, which is easy, affectionate, and conversational. Some of the anecdotes have humor, some are poignant, some nostalgic; all have the ring of truth and a happy absence of sentimental embellishment.

M Swanson, Arlene Collyer. New Girl at Winston High. Reilly and Lee, 1963.  
7-9 240p. \$3.75.

Kerry, a senior, hopes that she will become a member of the elite at her new school; her one experience with "the Crew" makes her realize that they are both frivolous and reckless. She appreciates, then, her family's standards and those of her boy friend, Mark, who is sober and intelligent. Not an unusual plot for a junior novel, the patterned story is mitigated somewhat by the family relationships and a pleasantly candid approach to some of the problems of the family: a difficult grandmother, the advent of another child, the parental attitude toward Kerry's choice of career. The characters are, for the most part, stereotyped; the writing style is uneven and frequently florid.

NR Ulrici, Rolf. Kai Conquers Brixholm; tr. by Michael Roloff; illus. by Ulrik  
6-8 Schramm. Bobbs-Merrill, 1963. 159p. \$3.50.

First published in Germany under the title Kai Erobert Brixholm, a rather stolid story about an imaginary Swedish island. Written, according to the publisher, "to explain to children the structure of democracy in an entertaining way," the book seems neither instructive nor entertaining. Kai comes to the island, Brixholm, suspected of piracy; his name is cleared and he stays on Brixholm and eventually becomes its prime minister. The island is populated and governed by children: there are a queen, ministers of every sort (m. for homesickness, m. for nutrition and beverages, m. for accident prevention, etc. etc.), an admiral, royal guards, and so on. The plot is contrived, the writing style self-conscious, and the exposition of political structure ornate and repetitive.

Ad Vance, Marguerite. Courage at Sea; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Dutton,  
4-6 1963. 86p. \$2.95.

A brief and vivid story that culminates dramatically with an account of the sinking of the Titanic. Cousins Pete and Cy Ambler, adolescent boys, are coming back from a trip to Europe with their parents; Cy is an "all-round all-American boy" who has been contemptuous of his slight bespectacled cousin Pete who excels in—of all unmanly things—playing piano. It is Pete, however, who has the courage to risk his own life to save another's as the Titanic is listing. The closing episode is colorful and convincing, but the most interesting aspect of this smoothly-written story is in the characterization of Peter. Son of wealthy parents who are willing to pay for lessons but unable to appreciate his talent, Peter knows that his mother and father wish he were an athlete—a Real Boy, more like Cy. He knows he is a disappointment to his parents, but he knows that he cannot give up his goals or his standards.

NR Wade, Betsy. Eugene, Why Don't You Paint? illus. by Fay Gage. Channel,  
K-2 1963. 32p. \$2.50.

A very slight read-aloud picture book with pedestrian illustrations, a weak plot, and an element of exaggeration that seems without humor. Eugene's mother suggests that her bored child paint a flower pot; the paint drips on a chair, so he paints the chair; there is paint on the floor, so he paints the floor blue—and so on—until everything on the page is blue except for Eugene's teeth. In fact, Mother can't pick him out of the blue background until he speaks.

R Wersba, Barbara. The Brave Balloon of Benjamin Buckley; drawings by Mar-  
5-6 got Tomes. Atheneum, 1963. 66p. \$2.95.

A fanciful story gravely told, with the humor of exaggeration in the plot and a sophisticated humor in the writing style. Many years ago, a balloon descended in a remote English village; one calm voice was heard in the frightened throng: "'Stop! This is an airship, not a monster!' All eyes were focused upon the bearer of this news, who turned out to be an intelligent child named Benjamin . . . Buckley." After the villagers

had reversed their stand and gone balloon-mad, they built a ship and off went Benjamin on a series of adventures, eventually disappearing to become a legend. The style of writing is appropriate for an audience too old for the format, a discrepancy that will limit the appeal of the book for readers. A good book for reading aloud to younger children.

NR Wolff, Janet. Let's Imagine Colors; by Janet Wolff and Bernard Owett. Dutton, 4-6 1963. 32p. illus. \$3.50.

yrs.

An oversize book designed to stimulate the child's awareness of and interest in colors. The text is based on primary and secondary colors, brown, and black. The pattern: "Blue and red make purple. Now let's imagine some things that are purple. Violets are purple. Plums are purple. Amethyst is purple. What else is purple?" Next page, "Did you imagine any of these? . . . shadows . . . iris . . . a queen's robe . . . mountains in the distance . . . an Easter egg . . . What other purple things can you think of?" There seems distinct possibility of confusion here, since an object like an amethyst may well be unfamiliar, since objects like Easter eggs or plums may be other colors, and since a familiar thing like a shadow may never be envisioned as purple. The book may be used by an adult to foster discussion of colors, but it contributes few visual props that might not be easily matched in nursery or home.

R Wymer, Norman. Gilbert and Sullivan. Dutton, 1963. 157p. \$3.

8-

As entertaining as it is informative, a delightful double biography; the author describes the lives of Gilbert and of Sullivan separately up to the point of their meeting in 1869. Thereafter the book is a lively record of successes and failures, quarrels, travels, libretti, and of the establishment of the D'Oyly Carte company. The biographer writes with authority and humor; the two subjects emerge as distinct and vivid personalities. For the theatre buff in general and the Gilbert and Sullivan lover in particular, the book should afford great pleasure.

R Young, Miriam. The Secret of Stone House Farm; illus. by William M. Hutchinson. Harcourt, 1963. 192p. \$3.50.

A very pleasant family story, with light characterization pointed up by relationships between characters. Marcy, age ten, has a wonderful summer when the new neighbors turn out to be a friendly couple who have retired from the circus and who have a private menagerie at Stone House Farm. One element in the story is not impossible but is a bit far-fetched: the elephant that the circus pair had spirited away from the circus (because she was supposed to have been put to death) is used for a community money-raising project. The family scenes are especially delightful, warm and natural; the author also handles with great skill Marcy's first flicker of interest in a boy.

NR Young, Noela. Flip the Flying Possum; story and pictures by Noela Young. 2-4 Watts, 1963. 30p. \$2.95.

A very slight book about the small Australian flying possum, with illustrations that are soft and realistic in depicting flora and fauna not particularly Australian. After a cursory description of Flip, the text follows his search for a home after the tree in which he has been living has been chopped down. He finally finds another tree; "'Yes, just right for possums,' yawned Flip, and rolling himself up with his feather-tail over his head, he closed his eyes and was fast asleep before you could say Flip Feathertail." Unoriginal and insubstantial.

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